

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/789,407

Applicant(s)

MEARS ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Lars A. Olson

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received from the applicant on June 16, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5-10,12-22,25-28,30,31 and 34.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

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|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

### Reasons for Allowance

1. An amendment was received from the applicant on June 16, 2006.
2. Claims 3, 4, 11, 23, 24, 29, 32 and 33 have been canceled.
3. Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 12-22, 25-28, 30, 31 and 34 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The emergency buoyant support for an aircraft in water as claimed is not shown or suggested in the prior art because of the use of a buoyant support that is comprised of a cover that is releasably secured to an aircraft, and at least one inflatable flotation bladder that is positioned between said cover and said aircraft, whereupon inflation of said flotation bladder, said flotation bladder moves said cover in a direction away from said aircraft. The prior art also does not show or suggest the use of said buoyant support or flotation device in combination with a monitoring means for determining the occurrence of a predetermined event, or an emergency beacon that is activated upon inflation of said flotation bladder, or a float switch for activating a valve upon a predetermined amount of water entering said aircraft, or a flotation bladder that is maintained in a substantially spiral configuration prior to inflation.
5. The prior art as disclosed by Anderson (US 3,506,222) shows the use of a flotation device for maintaining an aircraft in a floating condition, said device being comprised of at least one inflatable flotation bladder that is automatically inflatable by an inflation means, and an openable enclosure that maintains said bladder in a folded configuration prior to inflation, whereupon inflation of said flotation bladder, said flotation

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bladder opens said enclosure. Miller et al. (US 4,655,415) discloses a flotation device for maintaining an aircraft in a floating condition, said device being comprised of at least one inflatable flotation bladder, and an openable pack assembly that maintains said bladder in a folded configuration prior to inflation, whereupon inflation of said flotation bladder, said flotation bladder opens said pack assembly. Newly cited reference by Smialowicz et al. (US 5,102,070) discloses an inflatable aircraft evacuation slide with a cover that is releasably secured to an enclosure for holding said evacuation slide prior to inflation. Said inflatable evacuation slide is not intended to function or capable of functioning as an emergency buoyant support for an aircraft, only as a means for evacuating persons from an aircraft in water. Therefore, none of the prior art cited shows or suggests the use of an emergency buoyant support for an aircraft in water, said emergency buoyant support being comprised of a cover that is releasably secured to an aircraft, and at least one inflatable flotation bladder that is positioned between said cover and said aircraft, whereupon inflation of said flotation bladder, said flotation bladder moves said cover in a direction away from said aircraft. The prior art also does not show or suggest the use of said buoyant support or flotation device in combination with a monitoring means for determining the occurrence of a predetermined event, or an emergency beacon that is activated upon inflation of said flotation bladder, or a float switch for activating a valve upon a predetermined amount of water entering said aircraft, or a flotation bladder that is maintained in a substantially spiral configuration prior to inflation.


***Conclusion***

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (571) 272-6685.

lo

July 10, 2006

LARS A. OLSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

  
7/10/06